



# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Baiting did not draw fire ants in Lawrence neighborhood**

TOPEKA - Peanut oil-soaked survey cards failed to attract red imported fire ants in a southwest Lawrence neighborhood yesterday, but more surveys will be done before the area is officially declared free of the pest.

"This is a good sign," said Tom Sim, manager of the Kansas Department of Agriculture's plant protection and weed control program. "If we get the same results with surveys this summer and early fall, we will be able to confirm that our eradication efforts have been successful."

KDA staff placed survey cards in an area bounded by 24th Place and Adams Street, just west of Inverness. When the cards were checked later, none had attracted the red imported fire ant.

KDA's plant protection and weed control staff spent several weeks last summer indentifying fire ant mounds and individually treating them to make an immediate impact on their population. Spot treatments were followed with a bait that interferes with the ant's ability to reproduce.

The red imported fire ant is known for its aggressive behavior and painful sting. The Lawrence infestation was brought to the attention of KDA by a pest control operator who was called to the area to treat a mound discovered by a homeowner.